

Volume 14, Number 1, September 2017

## Lesson plan

# Libertarianism or incompatibilism

*Jon Mayled*

<b>The big picture</b>	Libertarians say that the principles of cause and effect cannot be applied to human behaviour and choices as we do have the freedom to act and we are morally responsible for our actions. Libertarians believe that moral actions are the result of the values and character of the individual. Therefore, we have free choice and can choose different ways to act, whereas determinism means that we do the only thing we can do and so never really have a choice about anything.
<b>Learning objectives</b>	What? Views on libertarianism or incompatibilism. Why? To evaluate and analyse these theories. How? After studying this topic, students should be able to explain libertarianism and compare and contrast it with determinist theories.
<b>Starter activity</b>	Write down three of your latest experiences and then investigate how your emotions played an important part in the decisions you made. Compare your list and outcomes with your partner or the person next to you.
<b>Lesson activities</b>	(1) Create a table of strengths and weaknesses of libertarianism. (2) Discuss whether human beings have free will, or is everything predestined? (3) Create a PowerPoint presentation on libertarianism, including key scholars and/or other influences and strengths/weaknesses.
<b>Plenary</b>	Create a quiz on determinism and libertarianism.
<b>Homework task</b>	Complete a timed essay question on scholarly views of libertarianism.
<b>Assessment opportunities</b>	Using the mark scheme, students should self-assess their work with feedback from the teacher.
<b>Differentiation</b>	Teachers may wish to make key points on a worksheet for dyslexic or EAL students.

This resource is part of RELIGIOUS STUDIES REVIEW, a magazine written for A-level students by subject experts. To subscribe to the full magazine go to [www.hoddereducation.co.uk/rsreview](http://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/rsreview)